

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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Whole No. 421

The Art of Robert Emmett Owen

By J. Edward Leithead



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 94

COMIC LIBRARY

Publisher: Frank Tousey. Schedule of Issue: Weekly. Issues: 197. Price: 5c. Dates: September 10, 1892 to September 16, 1898. Pages: 16 to 72 pages. Size: 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x8 $\frac{1}{4}$. Illustrations: black and white cover, many issues contained numerous full page illustrations within as well. Contents: Comic stories, mostly reprints from Tousey story papers and the Wide Awake Library. Featured were the stories about Muldoon, The Shortys and Tommy Bounce.

The Art of Robert Emmett Owen

By J. Edward Leithead

It was Ralph Adimari who discovered the illustrative art of Robert Emmett Owen and had an interview with him in 1954, which appeared in print in the issue of Dime Novel Roundup dated June 15, 1960, under the title, "Report on Robert Emmett Owen, Illustrator of Street & Smith Publications." I suggest you read this good article, as Adimari explains that, at the time he met the artist, only the illustrations Owen had done for various series of boys' books, like Stratemeyer's Dave Porter series and others, were discussed, because Owen never mentioned he had illustrated Street & Smith novels and Ralph wasn't then aware of it. That interview would have been considerably lengthened and today we would have a really comprehensive list of Owen's illustrations for covers of Street & Smith novels and magazines if Ralph had visited him with the knowledge that came later.

It has been one of my ambitions to mention, whenever I could with reasonable certainty, the names of illustrators in the dime novel field and the work they did, the same as I've done with authors. I think you'll agree that, without those cover illustrations, a dime novel loses much of its appeal even for the most enthusiastic collector. Much, did I say? What is a coverless novel worth (except to replace a brittle or battered copy of the same)?

Ralph refers to issues of Tip Top Weekly illustrated by Owen, covers of Street & Smith's Top Notch Magazine and New Fiction Series, etc., but I will begin by reference to Motor Stories, a short-lived weekly of Street & Smith, all the stories by William

Wallace Cook and all the color covers by Robert Emmett Owen. I once had the opportunity to examine a complete set of Motor Stories, noting that the artist had done some very fine work with the variety of subjects covered by Motor Matt's adventures.

I have here a copy of No. 3, dated March 13, 1909, Motor Matt's "Century" Run, or, The Governor's Courier, and down in the right hand corner, almost hidden by the overhang of a precipice in the illustration, are the initials "R. E. O." Usually he signed his drawings "R. Emmett Owen," but in some the artist's name has been obliterated—yet you cannot mistake his style after some study.

I have discovered, at various times in my research for Dime Novel Roundup material, that Owen did the following illustrations for Street & Smith novels, and probably many more as yet undiscovered (a few of these were listed previously in Ralph's article):

Owen did many covers for Bowery Boy Library, beginning, I think, with No. 1; and when some Bowery Boys were reprinted in Brave and Bold he did new covers for them in the oval shape used by the latter issues of that weekly. The covers of these Bowery Boy reprints that I have seen being the undoubted work of Owen, I assume he illustrated the whole set of Brave and Bold "Bowery Boys," which would include:

Brave and Bold #394, Turning a Double Trick (reprint of Bowery Boy Library #64, Bowery Billy's Trick).
Brave and Bold #405, Chasing the Sound Pirate (BBL #72, Bowery

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- Billy and the Jolly Comrade (the name of a boat).
 Brave and Bold #407, A Fine-Spun Plot (BBL #81, Bowery Billy and the Acton Alibi).
 Brave and Bold #411, The Mysterious Hermit (BBL #71, Bowery Billy's Crooked Trail).
 Brave and Bold #413, The Stolen Portrait Mystery (BBL #82, Bowery Billy and the Studio Mystery.)
 Brave and Bold #416, The Panhandlers of Essex Street (BBL #68, Bowery Billy and the Panhandlers).
 Brave and Bold #419, The Trolley Transfer Grafters (BBL #78, Bowery Billy, the Trolley Sleuth).
 Brave and Bold #422, The Mystery of the Haunted Ship (BBL #93, Bowery Billy to the Rescue).
 Brave and Bold #425, Foiling the Spanish Plotters (BBL #94, Bowery Billy's Spanish Case).
 Brave and Bold #428, The Theatrical Mystery (BBL #95, Bowery Billy on the Rialto).

All but one or two of the cover illustrations on the original issues of Bowery Boy Library listed above were by Marmaduke Russell.

Besides the foregoing, Owen's work is apparent on Brave and Bold #398, Fighting Hal (a French and Indian War tale and a super cover), 403, Between Two Fires, 408, In the Colonial Navy (John Paul Jones), 415, The Young Magician and 424, A Black Sheep's Legacy. Some of the Motor Matt stories were reprinted in Brave and Bold, probably #392, The Boy Motor King, was a reprint of Motor Stories No. 1, with #414 Three Speeds to Victory and #426, On High Gear, a couple more from the same source, and with, perhaps, new covers by Artist Owen on all three, but I have no copies of them to be sure.

On the following Buffalo Bill Stories Robert Emmett Owen was the illustrator:

- #490—Buffalo Bill Calls a Halt.
 503—Buffalo Bill's Royal Flush.
 537—Buffalo Bill and the Talking Statue.
 544—Buffalo Bill and the Lost Indian.

- 545—Buffalo Bill's Conquest.
 546—Buffalo Bill's Waif of the West.
 547—Buffalo Bill's Juggle With Fate.

Owen also did a cover or two for New Buffalo Bill Weekly.

Rough Rider Weekly started publication as Young Rough Riders Weekly, and for 41 issues, from No. 1, Ted Strong's Rough Riders, or, The Boys of Black Mountain, to No. 41, The Young Rough Rider's Indian Trail, or, Okanaga, the Cheyenne, the cover illustrations were all by Stacy Burch, famed as illustrator of Tip Top, from No. 1 of the Library up to ?. The design of Street & Smith in having the popular Burch do so many early covers was, as I see it, to help draw attention of Frank and Dick Merriwell admirers to a weekly primarily of Western interest—with clean-fighting Ted Strong as hero—and thus gain a host of readers from the Tip Top ranks who would buy both weeklies. You can tell from the letters in the back pages of Rough Rider Weekly that many responded—"My parents approve of my reading Tip Top and Rough Rider" — but apparently not enough to keep Ted Strong going beyond 175 issues (a great pity—myself, I liked this weekly very much). After Burch finished up with #41, Marmaduke Russell, Edward Johnson and Charles L. Wrenn took over, and Robert Emmett Owen illustrated covers for the following numbers of Rough Rider Weekly:

- #85—King of the Wild West's Crooked Trail.
 90—King of the Wild West's Militia.
 91—King of the Wild West's Justice.
 92—King of the Wild West's Saint.
 93—King of the Wild West's Hold.
 97—King of the Wild West's Strange Quest.
 98—King of the Wild West's Horse-thief.
 99—King of the Wild West's Chase.
 111—King of the Wild West's Daring.
 112—King of the Wild West's Key.

Owen drew the covers for the following issues of New Nick Carter Weekly:

- #463—The Millionaire Cracksmen.
 476—Diana, the Arch-Demon.

- 477—Captain Satan, the Unknown.
 482—Dema, the Dangerous.
 657—The Black Hand Nemesis.
 665—The Dead Man in the Car.
 667—The Air-shaft Spectre.
 668—The Broken Latch.
 670—The Man with the Missing Thumb
 687—The Westervelt Option
 688—The Vanishing Heiress
 786—The Heir of Doctor Quartz.

Diamond Dick, Jr., Weekly illustrated covers by Owen—I'm not certain these are all as I lack some higher numbers to check:

- #486—Diamond Dick for the Flag.
 494—Diamond Dick in the Breakers.
 495—Diamond Dick's Lucky Ace.
 499—Diamond Dick's Lost Trail.
 500—Diamond Dick's Midnight Duel.
 712—Diamond Dick's Derelict.
 750—Diamond Dick With the K-X Outfit.

In addition to the hard-cover boys' books mentioned by Adimari as illustrated by Robert Emmett Owen, were the frontispiece half-tones he did for numerous titles of the David McKay clothbound edition of Boys of Liberty Library.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Mr. LeBlanc—Just this week I had a visit with Mr. Hammond, a grandson of Harvey K. Shackelford. Mr. Hammond's sister has many bound volumes of what he believes to be the complete collection of the novels his grandfather wrote. If these volumes have been preserved, they would help a great deal in solving the problem of pen names used by H. K. Shackelford. Please enter Mr. Hammond's name as a member of the Happy Hour Brotherhood. Enclosed is the subscription price.—W. R. Johnson, Norman, Oklahoma. (Ed. Note: Thank you for your gift subscription. I hope Mr. Hammond will be able to find the time to check or make the

collection of his grandfather's works available for checking.)

Dear Ed: I need two copies (can be duplicates) in any format of the novel DOCTOR CARVER, by Prentiss Ingraham which appeared in Beadles Boys Library (large size) No. 86; Beadles Boys Library (small size) No. 62; Beadles Pocket Library No. 409; and in Ivers Beadles Boys Library No. 62. Edward G. Levy, Pleasant Hill Rd., Woodbridge, Conn. 06525. (Can anyone help Mr. Levy with his needs?)

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MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

19. H. L. (Buck) Wilson, 404-1 North Wood St., Uvalde, Texas (Change of address)
 247. Stephen Press, 784 Columbus Ave., New York, N. Y. 10025 (New address)
 186. Arthur N. Carter, 20 Jefferson St., Attleboro, Mass. 02703 (New address)
 278. Miss Rhoda Walgren, 1302 Birch Bldg. 1, Apt. 3, Marshall, Minn.

Rounded Up For the Round-Up

(With Some Odd Facts On TIP TOP WEEKLY)

By Gerald J. McIntosh

To my "Real People In Tip Top" article in DNR No. 403 I would like to add: In Tip Top No. 630, some students from Yale attended a theatre party in New York City where the noted actress Lulu Glaser and actors Charles Ross and Pete Dailey were performing. All were well known on the stage and were in the great play, "The Merry Widow." I remember this well, my friends and it was a long time ago, back in 1908.

Frank met the Governor of Colorado, whoever he was at the time, in Tip Top No. 674, in the lobby of the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver. Time, 1909.

It is apparent that the Indians Frank played against in Tip Top No. 473 in "The Hot Game With The Nebraska Indians" were real living players and that the Indians were a real baseball team. Later in Tip Top No. 487, in the Applause column, a writer says he saw a game in Michigan played by them and proceeds to give the names of four of them just as Burt L. Standish gave the names back in No. 473, when the game was played: Tobey, Waubose, Tabasacheck and Green.

TWO WARS FORECAST. In Tip Top No. 718, in 1910, Burt L. Standish forecasts war with Germany, which we all well know came true, in 1917-1918. And in No. 484, in 1905, while Dick Meriwell was touring Japan he made an enemy of a native who boasted that "Japan will move on America and attempt to destroy her," a prediction that came only too true, 36½ years later when they "moved on us" at Pearl Harbor and started the holocaust that cost us more than 600,000 casualties and an untold amount of treasure.

NEWS EVENTS. Burt L. Standish had a penchant for referring to great news events of the times during the course of his writing of the Merriwell stories. In No. 511 in 1906 he dis-

courses at some length the "color line," comparable to the present day civil rights issue as it existed in that day in Boston, comparing it with conditions below the Mason and Dixon line, between whites and negroes as to their association with one another in the two localities. In No. 516, also in 1906 he is in a discussion of Walter Wellman, who, at this time was engaged in the building of an "air-ship" for a flight to the North Pole. Wellman later made this attempted flight in a sort of a balloon arrangement, which was wrecked. (A historical fact, well remembered by this writer). In the succeeding Tip Top No. 517, he discourses on Admiral Dewey and Richard P. Hobson, heroes of the battle of Manila Bay a few years back. In another number in 1906 he devotes a paragraph or more to the San Francisco earthquake and fire which had occurred in April of that year. In 1908 the wheat market was "cornered" on the stock exchange, ironically by a man whose name was "Patton" or "Patten." Standish had much to say on page 12 of No. 687 on this and the "evils" of stock exchange trading, selling, etc. Standish prudently referred to the man who had done this "cornering" as being "Pattee." In 1906 the Harry K. Thaw-Stanford White murder case was in the courts. In Tip Top No. 539, page 11, Aug. 11, 1906, Standish, without calling names refers to this when he has D. Roscoe Arlington castigating his son, Chester, who hasn't yet fully reformed and reminding him what could happen to a young man such as he unless they turned over a new leaf and assuring him he would end up like the famous young man now on trial for his life in the courts unless he did so. In a number of Tip Top in 1910, Standish tells us something of the Jim Jeffries-Jack Johnson championship boxing match held in Reno, Nevada, July 4th that year. Old Joe

Crowfoot had somehow magically appeared on the scene with a pocket full of "wampum" underneath his dirty, red blanket, which he had won on the fight.

"One may never need a gun in the West, but if he should happen to need it, he is sure to need it almighty bad and quick." This paragraph with the words almost identical in each case, occurs six times in the Merriwell saga, as follows. Tip Top No. 16, page 4; No. 61, page 11; 87, page 14; 143, page 14; 401, page 16, and 695, page 4.

Tip Tops 98, 99, 100 and 101 are all incorrectly dated on their front covers. Correct dates for each one, however, are on their first pages.

Repetition of titles of the Merriwell stories in Tip Top, when the first part of the title was concerned, were so numerous there must have been two score or more of them. Duplicate sub-titles were also frequent. "Subduing A Bully" was the sub-title for three numbers, 85, 667 and 830. "Fair Play And No Favors" was used twice, for No. 661 of Tip Top and 15 of New Tip Top. New Tip Tops 6 and 23 have the same sub-titles, "The Plot That Failed." "Reaping The Harvest" is the sub-title of Nos. 129 and 598, and "Won In The Ninth" of Tip Top No. 181 and New Tip Top No. 96. An oddity is that "Frank Merriwell's Fight For Fortune" was the first title of No. 612, and was also the sub-title of No. 355. Similarity in sub-titles "The Man Who Would Not Play Clean" on No. 685 and "The Fellow Who Could Not Play Clean" on No. 810. "Dick Merriwell's Red Friend" was the sub-title of Tip Top No. 282, yet it was the main title of No. 385. "Paid In Their Own Coin" is sub-title for Nos. 174 and 315.

Errors on the front covers of Tip Top were several and very conspicuous. Switched scenes were on the covers of 646 and 647, likewise on numbers 654 and 655. In more than one instance the scene on front cover does not fit any incident told in the inside story. Also more than one front cover bore a title different to the one

given on page one. There were differences in the sub-titles of page one and those on front cover.

One who examines a copy of Tip Top No. 359, may see near the upper right corner of the front page illustration, a minute sized copy of a previous Tip Top Weekly tacked to the wall. Upon close examination it appears to be a replica of Tip Top No. 345. The front cover of No. 290 shows Dick Merriwell in a hot football scrimmage jumping high over the head of an opposing player. He is bare-legged and has on the running togs of one participating in track sports. Quite an amusing picture till you read the story on the inside which gives the reason for his wearing this queer garb.

I have two copies of Tip Top No. 550 and on page 24 of one of them a sort of "phenomenon" appears. Near bottom of page of right column the Bible passage of "No use to kick against the pricks" is given with Blessed Jones admonishing Dick Merriwell to be quiet while they were being hazed. The word "pricks" has the appearance of a small firecracker exploding with bits going in all directions and is unreadable, while in the other copy I have "pricks" is perfectly clear like the rest of the paragraph. I have wondered much at this. Does any other reader have a copy of No. 550 with the word "pricks" all shot to pieces and can't be made out? This passage of "No use to kick against the pricks" is found in other Tip Tops, first in No. 16, page 12, and also in No. 173, page 8. "You're neither sugar nor salt, so a little rain won't melt you," was another quote used often in Tip Top stories, and "The rain falls alike on the just and the unjust fellers, but chiefly on the justs, because the unjusts have the justs umbrellers," was printed a number of times.

In Tip Top No. 518 Frank Merriwell surprises Dale Sparkfair reading a paper-backed dime novel titled "Bloody Bill, the Boy Bandit of the Brazos; or, The Skeleton Horseman of the Wild Southwest." Frank scath-

ingly admonishes Dale of the folly of reading such "trash" and tells him of the dire results in store for him if he continues to do so. Gilbert Patten in his maturity is said to have looked askance at such "blood-and-thunder" stories and in later years when his more prudent Merriwell tales were a success he is on record of saying of his earlier tales in the Beadle publications he wished none were in existence and that if in his power he would destroy all copies that were.

Highly improbable stories were not the rule in the Merriwell tales. Rare indeed, but now and then one crept in. The most "impossible" of the entire run was No. 796 to my way of thinking, in which Dick Merriwell tangles with and kills a mysterious bird of the air that has killed animals and one man in the area. The bird is named "Pterodactylus," and long supposed to be extinct. This happened at Montauk Point on Long Island. The tale in No. 777 could also come in the category of almost impossible stories.

Odd, indeed, were Tips 682, 690 and 771. In No. 690, Dick Merriwell is the only regular Tip Top character to put in an appearance, and in Nos. 682, tho bearing a title about Frank M., Frank does not appear in the story at all, speaking not one word, and just briefly referred to, and in No. 771 with a Frank M. title, Frank is not a character in the tale at all, does not appear in person and speaks not a word, being barely mentioned in two or three instances. Frank is the sole regular character in 271.

The word *and* is printed "aand" four times in Tip Top No. 793, pages 3, 12, 13 and 19. Nowhere else in the saga does it appear thus.

Tip Tops 61, 102 and 449 have Prologues to the story.

Tip Top No. 603, page 5, Dick Merriwell was whittling a stick. The only instance in which I found him doing this.

In No. 121, Burt L. Standish describes Inza Burrage as "having golden hair." Bosh! We all know Inza was a brunette.

Frank Merriwell was a millionaire!

In No. 611 pages 6 and 7, he was declared to be worth \$12,000,000. Wow! No "From Rags To Riches" for him.

Hans Dunnerwurst rides a bucking broncho on the front cover of Tip Top No. 70 in 1897 and on No. 732 in 1910, thirteen years apart. Must have gotten to be a pretty much "stove-up" old cow-puncher in that length of time.

Dick Merriwell was seen purchasing some cigars in No. 628, page 16, at his club where he frequently purchased them and "temperance drinks." Why the cigars we wonder, since he was never known to smoke? Maybe he was buying them for friends.

The "Dick Merriwell At Fardale" series which ran from No. 285 to 301 inclusive had 202 chapters the way Street & Smith declared it by Roman Numerals. This was wrong. There were only 192 chapters the way I ran it out.

Communism and "Communists" come up in No. 165, while Frank is in France.

Rolling a cigarette while riding a bucking horse then lighting it was done by "Sangaree," a cowboy on Frank's ranch in Wyoming in Tip Top No. 676, page 7. That's one I'd have to see to believe, pards!

Triple-plays are rare in baseball. I can report that three at least happened in the Merriwell baseball stories. In No. 680, pages 21-22; No. 687 on page 21; 699, page 16. The one in 699 was unassisted. A "quadruple-play," which is said to have occurred only once in all baseball history takes place in No. 426, page 19 and again in New Tip Top No. 96 in a baseball game played at Fardale. In New Tip Top No. 12, page 19, Frank Merriwell retired three men on three pitched balls. But the Merriwells occasionally got their "bumps" in a ball game also. Frank had a home-run knocked off his delivery and with the bases loaded in No. 230. This happened twice to Dick Meriwell, first in No. 317 and then in No. 483, page 15 while he was playing the game in Japan. Frank was the master pitcher, though and hurled two no-hit games, the first

in No. 172, page 32, and again in No. 477, page 26.

Both the (half) brother Merriwells were pretty well accomplished in the languages. Frank, especially, talked Spanish well. It was pretty near a "must" and a necessity for him to do so, while he was "winning his spurs" in the West, down in Old Mexico, and during the fights for his mines in Arizona and South of the border, etc. As examples see Tip Tops 716 to 727, and in many copies of the very early numbers. No. 31, for instance, and many of the 300 to 450 series. In nos. 30, 116 and 474 he spoke French fluently.

Dick spoke Spanish with ease in No. 640 and many other copies of the Weekly, having handily learned it out West. In No. 670 he spoke French, and in No. 819 he was a master of German.

Frank used the deaf and dumb manner of talking in Nos. 20 and 447. He knew the Morse code in No. 732; Dick in No. 799. In No. 125 Frank, himself, personally, forwarded a "message" via telegraphy.

Frank was a ventriloquist and used the "science" in one of the very first half dozen Tip Tops as he was entering Fardale. In this and in No. 731 along with many more different numbers, he used it for fun, pleasure, and convenience. Dick was a ventriloquist in No. 713. Frank was a "typotist" and used hypnotism in No. 731, and in other copies at different times he used his "eyes" to calm, control and subdue someone opposite to him, etc. Dick M. also exercised his "hypnotist" powers in No. 641 of the Weekly. Frank knew shorthand in No. 154 and Dick took notes via it in No. 595.

They were both "tradesmen." Whatever popped up in the ways of a job that had to be done, they generally accomplished it somehow or other. We all remember Frank could run a railway locomotive. An entire "quarterly" of 13 issues was devoted to his railroading days, and told how he advanced from engine wiper to locomotive engineer, and in his later ad-

ventures he also held the throttle, too. In No. 840 Dick was an "expert electrical engineer." Both Frank and Dick knew all about early automobiles, were expert drivers, and could easily have held down jobs as "auto mechanics," seemingly being able to find and fix in a short time most any defect that happened to a machine while in their hands, etc.

Frank had a great knowledge of the cattle-raising industry and of the mining game. He could and did run his ranch very profitably and ran a sort of "Boys' Town" from his school along with it, which was a pleasant and successful venture. As for his mining exploits all we old time Tip Toppers remember well how he made a "go" of them, and of what he realized in the way of reward.

Dick Merriwell it seems was never shown by Standish to be a particular leader or master in the world of industry as was his brother Frank. However, nearing the end of the saga, he did sort of "collaborate" with his elder brother as a member of The Merriwell Company in the management and handling of their mining interests and other matters of great scope in the West, to the extent the money seemed to roll into them and it appears in the stories they were not "poverty-stricken" by any means.

An oddity of No. 442 is that chapter 6 of that copy has no title, the only one such I know of in the entire set.

The shortest chapter in a Tip Top I know of is chapter 10 in No. 149, less than half a page. In No. 234 of the weekly there is a chapter more than six pages in length. Is this the longest?

Dick Merriwell was very careful with his grammar, but he used the word "ain't" in Nos. 558, 571 and 784.

Starting with No. 150 and for several issues thereafter, there was in the center pages a layer or two of "slick" paper which was odd, indeed, along with the rougher and cheaper sheets.

For once Frank Merriwell lost "confidence" in himself in No. 477, page 11.

There is a difference in the size of the type on pages 6 and 7 of No. 225.

Frank Merriwell was first called "Merry" in No. 40 and Dick in No. 578.

"Higgins" seems to be the most common for characters in Tip Top Weekly. There were at least nine characters, all different, that bore this name. And there were two "Doc" Fishers. One was "Doc" Fisher in No. 70, who was a cowboy with a knowledge of surgery and medicine. Then there was Clement ("Doc") Fisher, chum of Chip Merriwell in the New Tip Tops. And there was a Fisher, a railway employee in Nos. 656 to 659.

A MIS-STATEMENT by Prof. Fourmen. In No. 727 in his answer to a writer to his Department, he says Burt L. Standish had never written any stories before he started writing the Merriwells. This was untrue. Long ago we knew that Patten, before Tip Top Weekly was founded, had written for Beadle and also that under "pen" names he had written lots for serial stories for many story papers, etc.

The name of Burt L. Standish appears twice on page 1 of New Tip Top 91.

Frank and Dick Merriwell both had "doubles" that got them into serious trouble. Frank's doubles were in No. 21 and 731 of the weekly and Dick had doubles in No. 762 and in "Dick Merriwell's Likeness," which was the first Merriwell story in the Tip Top Semi-Monthly.

Mixed-up and "pied" type. It was so badly mixed up on page 12, right column of No. 140 hardly any sense can be made of it. Numbers 152, 392 and 782 also have instances of this, making the reading very difficult.

In the sub-title of No. 146, the word "LEGACY" is transposed and is printed "LEAGCY."

GREATEST FEAT IN TIP TOP STORIES In No. 438, page 16, Bart Hodge "with a sweeping swing sent Bingo McCord sailing through the air in a half circle, and flung him at least thirty feet away into some bushes by the roadside." WOW! Not even Frank Merriwell ever did that that I

remember!

The Encyclopedia Britannica defines almost everything for us but not "dime novels," "yellow-backs" or "penny dreadfuls." One of the better known members of our own Round-Up organization who is a prominent author says in one of his recently published books "'Dime Novel' is generally accepted as the designation of a type of publication containing one complete story of considerable length and issued periodically, usually weekly." Well, I can't think of a better definition.

"AND MANY A REDSKIN BIT THE DUST!" That expression it has been said, never appeared in a dime novel, but it has. Doubting Thomases can read that very sentence on page 23 of The Buffalo Bill Stories No. 354, Feb. 22nd, 1908. W. Bert Foster is said to have authored that tale, "Buffalo Bill's Great Round Up; or, Trailing The Red Cattle Rustlers."

Anybody ever notice this similarity in sub-titles in two different old 5 cent weeklies? Sub-title of Buffalo Bill Stories No. 335 is, "The Trail Of The Lightning That Strikes," and sub-title of Diamond Dick No. 423 is, "The Death Trail Of Lightning-That-Strikes."

"Hop Wah" was the name of a Chinese character in two different Five cent weeklies. He was a pard of Young Wild West in the stories in that weekly and also a friend of Frank Merriwell, Jr., in some of the early numbers of New Tip Top Weekly. Of course they were not the same character.

It was generally believed by the folks of the area in which Jesse James operated that he robbed from the rich and gave to the poor. However, this belief was not shared by the Sheriffs of the same area. Ha! ha!

WESTERN WISDOM AND PHILOSOPHY gleaned from dime novels. "When a man has the drop on you in the West, you might as well save your struggles, your breath, and possibly your life!" . . . "A Digger Indian or a Chink are pretty low down, but the sheep-herder is considered so

far beneath either of these that a cattleman would accept a Chink as his blood-brother before he would recognize a shepherd" . . . "To call a cow-puncher a sheep-herder is to cause sudden activity all along the firing-line" . . . "The attitude of the westerner toward the weakling is more pitying than that which is held toward the setting sun that the law of the survival of the fittest is the first law of all" . . . "In the West one does not wait to be introduced in order to speak to a stranger. Somehow, one takes for granted that the men he meets are a good sort until the contrary is proved, and often the most casual of encounters turn out to be the most pleasant" . . . "All the information you'll pick up in a month's time on a ranch is likely to roll around mighty lonesome in a thimble" . . . "A Colt was made for use and if you don't kill a man the first chance, you might never get another, or perhaps live to regret it" . . . "Two things one knows without experience, the whine of a bullet and the buzz of a rattlesnake."

The wonderful world of nickel and dime novels, with their fascinating black-and-white and colored covers, their make-up, lurid contents and other features, is a very interesting hobby indeed; and an expensive one. I am too old and too broke for it any more. Never did collect on a very great scale. I have in the past accumulated quite a lot of them, but long ago I disposed of most of them. Except my TIP TOPS. I have all of them yet, and find a lot of pleasure in merely the possession of the set, and as time will permit, the re-reading of certain series that contain my favorites. My chief pursuit these days is in the acquiring of all past data possible on dime novels, especially Merriwelliana, and the future publication of any such material in newspapers and magazines, etc., or items publicized in any other form. I urge the help and co-operation of all readers and others who might assist me in this. It will not be lost and in the future may be on display where

those interested might view them.

I like to reminisce about the old-timers, especially with one who is more or less familiar with them and the era in which they were published and flourished, but alas! That era is fast fading for most of us, and the time is rapidly approaching when none are left who remember it. In fact, few do even now. I venture to hazard a guess that the 260 members, more or less of our present Happy Hours Brotherhood and Round-Up organization could and possibly does constitute the goodliest number of boys and men who so avidly read and loved the dime novel type of literature that ended after the first 25 years of this century, but had its beginning at the start of the last third of our last century.

**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,
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Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St.,
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Editor:

Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St.,
Fall River, Mass. 02720

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Total	500	500

I certify that the statements made by
me above are correct and complete.

Edward T. LeBlanc

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

Edw. T. LeBlanc, being managing editor of "Real West Mag." is trying to run a picture of an old time novel in each issue if he can, I wonder how many other old timers that haven't seen an old dime or nickel novel in 50 years, how it takes them. Surely it must give them a great kick to see them, but no doubt they wonder who and where they can write to about them. In the old days, I've also wondered myself, when I saw an old timer in some magazine, especially an old one.

A few months ago, for Sept. 1967, had a picture of Pluck & Luck (Out with Buffalo Bill), with a very fine story of Buffalo Bill to go with it on the play put out by B. B.

Then in the one before it was a picture of Dawleys New War Novels "Pauline, the Female Spy." Most of our Brotherhood members no doubt have never seen this one, but even so, we who remember, get a real kick out of it.

There is another fine article on Gen. Duncan, Capt. Jack Crawford (Texas

Jack) and other great men in it, as well as other issues. Some of these, especially Texas Jack, were boosted by Ned Buntline.

I have been approached by Stanley A. Pachon, J. Edward Leithead, Ed. T. LeBlanc, Ralph P. Smith and others to write up for the Roundup, the History of the Happy Hours Brotherhood and the Dime Novel Roundup???

It's a big job, and if I can remember every thing, which I hope I can, I may give it a start in serial form. All I can do, is my best, so I am trying to get what information together that I can.

Herbert Kenney of Framingham, Mass., wants me to go up to Northport, Maine, with him in October for 2 or 3 weeks, and he thinks maybe I can do some writing while up there with him. I'll see.

Mrs. E. A. Cameron, 404 Laurel Hill Rd., Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514, sure loves to collect old Sherlock Holmes stories. She is after those published by the Royal Pub. Co., also S. H. in the Handy Classic Series, also the Doings of Raffles, in the Belmont Series. Can you help her?

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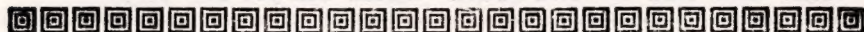
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